

service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season."

I extend my appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in bringing some cheer to the lives of thousands of Maine children whose parents are serving our country. As they seek to expand this program throughout New England and to New York in 2008, I wish them all the best.

RECOGNIZING DENIM DAY IN NJ  
2008

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the efforts of the Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA, of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to designate April 28, 2008 as Denim Day in New Jersey. This day-long observance is an important opportunity to raise awareness about sexual violence and end the 'blame-the-victim' mentality about rape that continues to impede justice for those attacked.

Unfortunately, appalling misconceptions about rape and sexual violence still exist and were on full display in the Italian Supreme Court decision that launched International Denim Day in 1998. In that case, the justices overturned a rape conviction because the woman wore jeans. They reasoned that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans because they were "tight," thereby implying her consent. After the decision, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans to work the next day.

Those Italian legislators were right to protest such an awful decision and inspired people around the world to speak out against similar injustices. We must do everything possible as a community and as a Nation of laws to stop rape and sexual assault and help survivors. That includes educating young men and women about consent, making clear that rape is the responsibility of the offender, not the victim, and eliminating the fear of shame and blame that prevents an estimated 9 in 10 rape victims from reporting an attack.

Today, on the first annual Denim Day in NJ, I commend the ongoing efforts of the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to accomplish these goals. I stand united with the YWCA, survivors of sexual assault, and their loved ones in observing this important day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on April 24, 2008, to attend the funeral of a fallen soldier who lost his life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 220 through 223.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 220—the Poe Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 221—the McNerny Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 222—the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2830 with instructions; and

"Aye" on rollcall vote 223—Passage of H.R. 2830.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DARRELL PAGE  
OF BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Darrell Page of Dublin, North Carolina for his 11 years of service as President of Bladen Community College in Bladen County. Dr. Page's leadership, integrity, and insight have made a tremendous difference at this community college and in his community.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Darrell Page. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Dr. Page has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

During Dr. Page's tenure at the college, many positive developments and advancements have occurred. Student enrollment has more than doubled, total budget at the school has tripled, and the college has achieved Superior Performance status five of the past 6 years. In addition, Bladen Community has become a state leader in distance education. Furthermore, as a devoted husband, father, and friend, Darrell Page has truly been a foundation on which Bladen Community College and Bladen County have continued to thrive. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

In celebrating Dr. Page's upcoming retirement this June, let each of us remember the words of our third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him, always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Darrell, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin, Bladen County, Bladen Community College, and the State of North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and always helping his fellow citizens. May God's strength, joy and peace be with him always.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NICK  
JACKSON FOR WINNING THE  
OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Nick Jackson showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Nick Jackson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Nick Jackson always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Nick Jackson on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HELEN KOVAK—A JEWEL OF  
SOUTHEAST TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a lifelong volunteer and inspiration to the Beaumont community, Helen Kovak.

Mrs. Kovak is a pillar of the Beaumont community, and has a heart the size of Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given to back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have even described her as, "the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Mrs. Kovak has served in a number of areas, one of which is the political arena, where she has been volunteering since the day she could vote. She is responsible for starting one of the first direct mail campaigns, which she carried out from her home, way back when Goldwater was running for office, and she serves as a Precinct Chairman for the Republican Party to this day.

A graduate of the University of Texas, Mrs. Kovak still sports a UT sticker on the back of her VW Beetle. She celebrated her 90th birthday on April 26th, and at a recent party with friends she stressed that people should appreciate what they have and "live each day to the fullest, because you never know when it's gonna end."

I am proud to recognize this gem of Southeast Texas on her 90th birthday. She is a true inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENT  
ENGINEERS AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF EVANSVILLE FOR WINNING  
NASA'S 15TH ANNUAL GREAT  
MOONBUGGY RACE

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student engineers at the University of Evansville for winning first place in NASA's 15th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race.

The race is held each year to honor the ingenuity and creative problem-solving of the designers of the original lunar rover used during the Apollo Moon missions in the 1970s.

The University of Evansville team defeated 24 teams to win the college division competition. Their moonbuggy completed a half-mile